

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said slave apparatus comprising:

a judging means-unit of transmitting to said master device a notification code of notifying a presently set-up communication mode, and then judging whether a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within a predetermined time or not; and

a communication controlling means-unit of performing control on the basis of a judgment result of said judging means-unit in such a manner that (1) when a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within the predetermined time, a state permitting communication with said master device is established in correspondence to the command, and that (2) when said command is not received within said predetermined time, connection to said master device is electrically released temporarily and then said connection is restored; wherein

by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, said communication controlling means-unit selects one from a plurality of said communication modes so that its own communication mode is changed into one different from that used immediately before said release.

2. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said slave apparatus comprising:

a judging means-unit of transmitting to said master device a notification code of notifying a presently set-up communication mode, and then judging whether a command received from said master device in response to said notification code corresponds to said presently set-up own communication mode or not; and

a communication controlling means-unit of performing control on the basis of a judgment result of said judging means-unit in such a manner that (1) when said command corresponds to the presently set-up communication mode, a state permitting communication with said master device is established in correspondence to the command, and that (2) when said command does not correspond to the presently set-up communication mode, connection to said master device is electrically released temporarily and then said connection is restored; wherein

by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, said communication controlling means-unit selects one from a plurality of said communication modes so that its own communication mode is changed into one different from that used immediately before said release.

16. (Currently Amended) A slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said slave apparatus comprising:

a communication mode identifying means-unit of transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying a presently set-up communication mode, and then identifying the kind of communication mode corresponding to a command received from said master device in response to said notification code; and

a communication controlling means-unit of performing control such as to change its own communication mode in correspondence to an identification result of said communication mode identifying means-unit and then establish a state permitting communication with said master device.

17. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, wherein said predetermined communication bus is a universal serial bus ("USB") type.

18. (Currently Amended) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said communication controlling means-unit performs said release by pulling up or pulling down a voltage applied to a D<sup>+</sup> or a D<sup>-</sup> line of said USB.

19. (Currently Amended) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said communication controlling means-unit performs said release by turning OFF a V<sub>bus</sub> line through which a voltage from said hose device is supplied in said USB.

20. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, wherein a plurality of said communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class.

21. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said mode corresponding to a mass storage class among a plurality of said communication modes is set up as an initial state.

22. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said USB embodied as a wire USB cable.

23. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said USB is embodied as a wireless circuit.

24. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, comprising displaying means of displaying information on a communication state including information concerning a communication mode presently set up.

25. (Previously Presented) A digital camera comprising a slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, and

capable of transmitting recorded-by-oneself data recorded by itself to said master device through said communication bus.

26. (Currently Amended) A communication setting method of setting a communication mode in a slave device capable of communicating with a master device

through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said method comprising:

a judging step of transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying a communication mode presently set up in said slave device, and then judging whether a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within a predetermined time or not; and

a communication controlling step of performing control on the basis of a judgment result of said judging step in such a manner that (1) when a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within the predetermined time, said slave device is set into a state permitting communication with said master device in correspondence to the command, and that (2) when said command is not received within said predetermined time, said slave device electrically releases connection to said master device temporarily and then restores said connection; wherein

in said communication controlling step, by the time when said slave device and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, a communication mode is selected from a plurality of said communication modes so that its own communication mode is changed into one different from that used immediately before said release.

27. (Currently Amended) A communication setting method of setting a communication mode in a slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said method comprising:

a judging step of transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying a communication mode presently set up in said slave apparatus, and then judging whether a command received from said master device in response to said notification code corresponds to said communication mode presently set up in said slave apparatus or not; and

a communication controlling step of performing control on the basis of a judgment result of said judging step in such a manner than (1) when said command

corresponds to the communication mode presently set in said slave apparatus, a state permitting communication between said slave apparatus and said master device is established in correspondence to the command, and that (2) when said command does not correspond to the communication mode presently set up in said slave apparatus, said slave apparatus electrically releases connection to said master device temporarily and then restores said connection; wherein

in said communication controlling step, by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, a communication mode is selected from a plurality of said communication modes so that its own communication mode is changed into one different from that used immediately before said release.

28. (Previously Presented) A communication setting method of setting a communication mode in a slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said method comprising:

a communication mode identifying step of transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying a communication mode presently set up in said slave apparatus, and then identifying the kind of communication mode corresponding to a command received from said master device in response to said notification code; and

a communication controlling step of performing control such as to change the communication mode of said slave apparatus in correspondence to an identification result of said communication mode identifying step and then establish a state permitting communication with said master device.

29. (Currently Amended) A tangible-computer readable recording medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement the method of claim 26.

30. (Currently Amended) A tangible-computer readable recording medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement the method of claim 27.

31. (Currently Amended) A tangible-computer readable recording medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement the method of claim 28.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus comprising a slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, and

capable of communicating with said master device.

34. (New) A digital camera capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of divers kinds, said digital camera comprising:

a communication control section of controlling a communication with said master device, wherein

said communication control section performs said control in such a manner that said communication control section transmits to said master device a notification code of notifying a presently set-up own communication mode, and then

(A) when a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within the predetermined time, a state permitting communication with said master device is established in correspondence to the command, and

(B) when said command is not received from said master device within said predetermined time, connection to said master device is electrically released temporarily and then said connection is restored, and by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, said communication control section selects one from a plurality of said communication modes so that its own communication mode is changed into one different from that used immediately before said release.